

TORRINGTON
RURAL DISTRICT
1964



REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ending
31st December, 1964.

GREAT TORRINGTON:

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TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the Torrington Rural District for 1964

By

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Medical Officer of Health.

and

F. G. GANE, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :—

Dr. H. M. THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :—

F. G. GANE, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor :—

C. A. KERSWILL, Cert. S.I.E.J.B. ✓

Additional Public Health Inspector :—

T. S. Walker, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Chambers,
South Street,
Torrington.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Lady and Gentlemen,

In the absence of Dr. H. Mervyn Thomas your late Medical Officer of Health, who resigned in May, 1965, I have the honour to present our joint annual reports for the year 1964. The vital statistics etc. are included without comment.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. G. GANE.

July, 1965.

Torrington Rural District

1964

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	79,803
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	7,280
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,529
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£104,929
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£403

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births—Legitimate—Males	63	Females	39			
Illegitimate—Males	2	Females	1	...	...	105
Crude Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	14.4
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	19.0
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	86
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.8

Causes of Death

				Male	Female
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	1	Nil
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	Nil	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	4	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	2	Nil
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	1	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	9	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	1	1
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	6	6
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	5	4
Influenza	...	...	...	1	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	2
Suicide	...	...	...	1	Nil
Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	2	3
All Other Accidents	...	...	...	Nil	3
				39	47

Infectious Diseases Notified

Measles	51	Scarletina	6
Erysipelas	1	Acute Primary Pneumonia	18
Whooping Cough	3		

Annual Report of Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

DETAILS OF VISITS

Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	....	....	....	104
Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	....	....	....	30
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	....	....	....	50
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	....	....	....	13
Keeping of Animals	....	....	....	12
Offensive accumulations	....	....	....	4
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	....	....	....	2
Number of Rooms disinfected	....	....	....	1
Visits to Factories	....	....	....	59
Visits to Bakehouses	....	....	....	11
Visits to Schools	....	....	....	5
Food Inspections (other than meat)	....	....	....	4
Visits to Food Preparing Premises (other than meat)	....	....	....	122
Number of Water Samples	....	....	....	9
Number of Milk Samples	....	....	....	30
Building Inspections under Bye-laws	....	....	....	390
Visits to Council Houses	....	....	....	351
Defective Drains	....	....	....	74
Drains examined	....	....	....	177
Plans investigated	....	....	....	228
Petroleum inspections	....	....	....	39
Dirty Houses	....	....	....	3
Sewage Works	....	....	....	310
Improvement Grants (No. of visits & re-visits)	....	....	....	327
Caravan Sites	....	....	....	16
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1964 inspections	....	....	....	32
Visits to council building sites	...	....	....	235
Visits to Refuse Tips	....	....	....	106

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	....	....	....	....	104
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....				10
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....		82

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action					24
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

	Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority					40
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Improvements carried out and nuisances abated :—

<i>External</i>						<i>No. of Premises</i>
Walls repaired						39
Roofs repaired	....	....	....	....	....	28
Guttering repaired	....	....	....	....	....	24
Downspouts repaired	....	....	....	....	....	24
Chimneys repaired	....	....	....	....	....	17
Water supply laid on into houses	....	....	....	....	....	14
New pumps provided	....	....	....	....	....	—
Wells cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	1
Well steinings repaired	....	....	....	....	....	1
New lengths drain laid	....	....	....	....	....	57
Defective drains repaired	....	....	....	....	....	43
New inspection chambers	....	....	....	....	....	54
Septic tanks repaired	....	....	....	....	....	3
New septic tanks	....	....	....	....	....	31
New gullies	....	....	....	....	....	55
New W.C.'s	....	....	....	....	....	46
Water Supply laid on to W.C.'s	....	....	....	....	....	32
W.C. cisterns renewed	....	....	....	....	....	9
New washing accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	1
Outbuildings repaired	....	....	....	....	....	4

<i>Internal</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>					
Walls replastered						29
Ceilings replastered						28
Windows repaired						31
Doors repaired						15
Floors repaired						17
Cooking appliances repaired or renewed						12
New sinks....						12
New sculleries						—
Baths installed						31
Food storage improved						34
Stairs repaired						10
Hot water systems fixed....						29

New Housing Accommodation

Number of new houses erected by local authority	14
Number of new houses erected by private enterprise	21

Council Housing Programme

During the year 14 two bedroomed bungalows were built and a further 4 were under construction. The Council now owns 198 houses and bungalows.

Applications were received for :-

- 12 Discretionary Grants.
- 52 Standard Grants.

3 Discretionary Improvement grants were completed during the year bringing the total up to 161. In addition 47 standard grants were completed bringing the total up to 200.

The total expenditure to the end of the year was :—

Discretionary grants	....	....	£51,803
Standard grants	....	....	£25,534
			£77,337

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Caravans

Residential caravans do not present much of a problem. There are only 3 licensed sites for single caravans. In addition there are a few individually sited vans within the curtilage of dwellings used by the occupiers as permitted under the Act. There are also 2 exempt sites used by the Caravan Club and the Camping Club but these appear to be little frequented. There are 3 licensed sites—one at Sockington, Winkleigh, one at Smythan, Little Torrington and one at High Bickington.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates a fortnightly refuse collection covering most of the area except for a few isolated farms and cottages. The vehicle used is a diesel-operated Karrier Gamecock manned by two collector-drivers. The refuse is disposed of on three tips at the moment at Winkleigh, Shebbear and Roborough. The vehicle also collects the refuse from litter bins in the villages and on roadside lay-byes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The villages of Winkleigh, Shebbear, Sheepwash, Taddipport, St. Giles-in-the-Wood, Kingscott, Roborough, Petrockstowe, Merton, Yarnscombe, Stibb Cross and Little Torrington are now equipped with modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems. Stibb Cross and Little Torrington were completed during 1964. Detailed plans are now being prepared for Hollocombe and outlines for Weare Giffard and Dolton. Other villages requiring schemes to complete the Council's programme are High Bickington, Langtree, Beaford, Riddlecombe and Frithelstock.

These villages have primitive sewage systems at the moment but they are obsolete and very unsatisfactory. It is very unfortunate that this very necessary work cannot be speeded up to meet the growing needs of such a service.

WATER SUPPLIES

The area is very well served by the North Devon Water Board via a network of mains and all villages and hamlets are supplied. Only remote dwellings now rely on shallow wells for a supply.

The following new connections were made during the year :

55 Domestic	47 Trade
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The total number of premises now connected to the mains is :

1,640 Domestic	249 Trade
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(excluding farm houses)

There are no standpipes in the district.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961. Part I of the Act.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	53	59	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	53	59	NIL	NIL

8

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	

The following is a list of the parishes showing the number of houses connected and an estimate of the population served :—

			<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>No. of population served</i>
Alverdiscott	....	....	45	135
Ashreigney	....	....	93	279
Beaford	....	....	83	249
Buckland Filleigh	....	....	18	54
Dolton	.....	.....	133	399
Dowland	....	....	18	54
Frithelstock	....	....	71	213
High Bickington	....	....	88	264
Huish	....	....	14	42
Huntshaw	....	....	30	90
Langtree	....	....	103	309
Little Torrington	....	....	65	195
Merton	....	....	92	276
Peters Marland	....	....	57	171
Petrockstowe	....	....	71	213
Roborough	....	....	34	102
St. Giles	....	....	112	336
Shebbear	....	....	123	169
Sheepwash	....	....	69	207
Weare Giffard	....	....	67	201
Winkleigh	....	....	257	771
Yarnscombe	....	....	41	123

The water is treated at the source to counteract plumbosolvency. Samples of the water are frequently taken by the Board's officials for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results are notified to the Department.

9 Samples of water were taken from private supplies and submitted for analysis.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

In conjunction with Torrington Borough Council a full-time Operator is shared by the two authorities.

The following work was carried out in the Rural District during the year :—

Number of Survey calls made :—

Private Houses	....	....	....	1,493
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	....			51
Farms	....	....	....	185
Business Premises	....	....	....	31

Number of Premises treated :—

Private Houses	....	....	....	269
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	....			18
Farms	....	....	....	84
Business Premises	....	....	....	4

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one gut scraping establishment in the district, associated with the Winkleigh Abattoir.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughtering

There are two licensed slaughter houses in the district including an abattoir at Winkleigh. 100 per cent meat inspection is at present carried out. Long and irregular hours cause much inconvenience and this work tends to dominate and take preference over all other public health work.

TABLE A
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part
Figures in brackets are for 1963

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs and Goats	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	3065 (1792)	663 (447)	535 (905)	56358 (37360)	14158 (11290)	— (—)
Number inspected	3065 (1792)	663 (447)	535 (905)	56358 (37360)	14158 (11290)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses con- demned....	1 (11)	14 (20)	41 (58)	312 (228)	70 (82)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	271 (100)	188 (146)	— (2)	5537 (1462)	1871 (1211)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tub- erculosis and Cysticerci	8.87 (6.1)	30.47 (32.0)	7.66 (6.6)	10.38 (4.5)	13.71 (11.4)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	2 (—)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	192 (88)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1.37 (.7)	— (—)
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

It will be noted that the numbers killed and inspected are substantiately greater than in 1963.

TABLE B

Summary of Meat Condemnations with cause and weight.

Food Condemned	Weight in lbs.
Due to Tuberculosis :	
Carcases of 23 Pigs	330
Portions of 170 Pigs	1708
	<i>i.e.</i> 18cwts. 1qr. 4lbs.
Due to Diseases other than Tuberculosis :	
Carcases and Organs of 11 Cows	4721
Carcases and Organs of 4 Cattle ...	1613
Carcases and Organs of 312 Sheep	14,305
Carcases and Organs of 70 Pigs	5149
Carcases and Organs of 41 Calves	1835
Parts of 188 Cows	2497
Parts of 271 Cattle	3195
Parts of 5237 Sheep	8897
Parts of 1871 Pigs	4142
Parts of 1 Calf	30
	46,384lbs.
	<i>i.e.</i> 20tons 14cwts. 1qr. 21lbs.

Condemned meat was disposed of through trade channels after staining with naphthalene green.

TABLE C

Other Foodstuffs :-

9 tins Rodina Tomatoes	(2lb. 3oz. per tin)
1 tin Gooseberries	(5lbs.)
3 tins Bronte Corned Mutton	(6lb. per tin)

FOOD PREMISES

The following is a list of food premises in the district :—

Grocery and General Stores	....	34
Bakers	....	3
Butchers	....	4
Fishmongers	....	-
Public Houses & Hotels	....	17
Cafes	....	8

Eighteen Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. 122 visits to food premises were made during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

Two swill boiling plants in the district have now ceased to operate.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

30 petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

SLAUGHTERING LICENCES

14 licences were issued during the year to slaughtermen.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

The following inspections have been carried out under the 1963 Act :-

Offices	...	...	...	...	...	10
Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	...	18
Wholesale Shops and Wharehouses	...				...	2
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	3

Advice has been given to the occupants regarding contraventions.

PLANS

228 plans were submitted during the year, 182 were approved, 41 disapproved, and 5 cancelled.

All plans were considered by the Council's Planning Committee before submission to the Divisional Planning Committee of the Devon County Council.

I attended most of the monthly meetings of the Divisional Planning Committee.

BOARDING KENNELS

Two premises are registered under the Act and 14 visits were made to them during the year.

STAFF

Again I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Kerswill and Mr. Walker for the conscientious way in which they have carried out meat inspection, often under trying conditions. I would also like to thank your Clerk, Mr. B. W. Leatt, for his close co-operation and assistance at all times.

